

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be reexamined.

The September 23, 2004, Office Action in the above-identified application indicated that Claims 10, 11, 18, 19, and 24 were allowable if placed in independent form including the limitations of the independent claims from which these claims depended in the intervening dependent claims. This amendment places Claims 10, 11, 18, and 24 in independent form, without prejudice to filing a continuation application including the canceled claims. A minor language inconsistency has been corrected in Claim 10. Since Claim 19 depended from original Claim 18, and since Claim 18 was placed in independent form, presumably Claim 19 is also allowable.

With regard to the claim numbering, applicants apologize for the original incorrect numbering of some of the claims and appreciate the Examiner's renumbering them from 1-26. This numbering has been used in the enclosed claims.

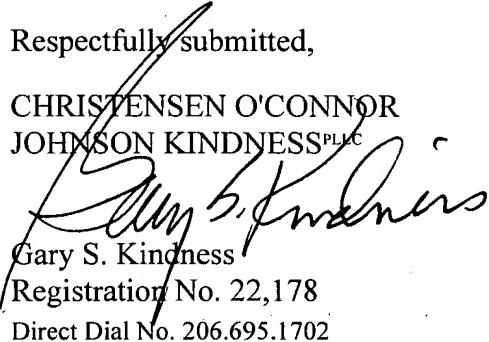
In response to the objection to the drawings set forth in part 10 of the Office Action Summary and the undersigned attorney's telephone conference with Examiner Le requesting an explanation of the basis for the objection, attached is a substitute set of drawings that applicants submit comply with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requirements.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action passing this application to issue is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendments, she is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.

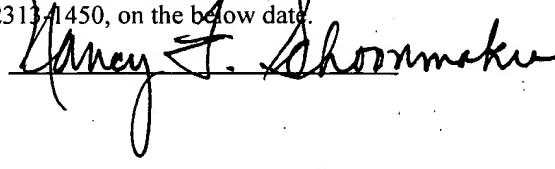
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: 10/29/04


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